



National
Foreign
Assessment
Center

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CIA/PR Briefs 79-036

Area Briefs

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2002

February 22, 1979

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THEY HAVE SPREAD THEIR FORCES THINLY OVER A WIDE FRONT.
WE BELIEVE THE CHINESE STILL HAVE SUFFICIENT TROOPS
ALREADY AT THE BORDER TO PUSH MUCH DEEPER INTO VIETNAM.

//VIETNAMESE CASUALTIES PROBABLY HAVE BEEN LIGHTER
THAN THOSE OF THE CHINESE, BUT THE VIETNAMESE PARAMILI-
TARY AND BORDER FORCES THAT HAVE BEEN BEARING THE BRUNT
OF THE FIGHTING ARE BADLY OUTNUMBERED. AFTER FIVE DAYS
OF FIGHTING THEY MAY BE SPREAD THIN.

THE INVASION APPEARS TO HAVE AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE
THE DESTRUCTION OF A LARGE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE FORCES
DEFENDING THE BORDER. THE CHINESE ATTACKED VIRTUALLY
EVERY TOWN, VILLAGE, AND MILITARY POSITION ALONG THE
BORDER. MOST OF THE ASSAULTS INVOLVED BATTALIONS OR
REGIMENTS

THE CHINESE HAVE SPENT THE PAST FEW DAYS CONSOLIDAT-
ING THEIR GAINS AND DO NOT APPEAR TO BE IN ANY HURRY TO

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PUSH DEEP INTO VIETNAM. INSTEAD, THEY APPARENTLY ARE
 SEEKING TO DRAW VIETNAMESE MAIN FORCES NORTH FROM HANOI
 IN ORDER TO ENGAGE THEM IN A SET-PIECE BATTLE. BEIJING
 ALSO APPEARS TO HOPE THAT THIS WOULD FORCE HANOI TO RE-
 CALL SOME OF ITS COMBAT FORCES FROM KAMPUCHEA.

VIETNAM APPARENTLY IS NOT YET SENDING ITS BEST FORCES NORTH.

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